United Nations ST/IC/1999/75

Secretariat

10 September 1999

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff at Headquarters

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services

Subject: **Additional arrangements for admission to the premises at United Nations Headquarters during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly**

1. The present circular describes additional arrangements that will be in effect at Headquarters for admission to the premises during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly. This year, it will become necessary for the authorities of the host Government to close the section of First Avenue in front of the United Nations to vehicular traffic for a three-day period — on Monday, 20 September, Tuesday, 21 September and Wednesday, 22 September 1999 — from approximately 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Staff members will be required to present their grounds passes at checkpoints established at the north-west corners of 42nd Street and First Avenue and 45th Street and First Avenue and the south-east corner of 48th Street and First Avenue.

Closure of the garage

2. For security reasons, the garage will be closed for parking at noon on Sunday, 19 September 1999 and will reopen for authorized vehicles at 4 a.m. on Monday, 20 September 1999. All vehicles must be removed not later than noon on Sunday, 19 September until the reopening of the garage. Remaining vehicles will be towed and stored at the owner's expense.

Alternate parking while the garage is closed

3. To accommodate staff who will not have access to the United Nations garage after noon on Sunday, 19 September, parking has been allocated to properly identified vehicles north of 51st Street to 57th Street, along both sides of First Avenue, from 8 a.m. on Sunday, 19 September to 4 a.m. on Monday, 20 September 1999. Valid United Nations parking decals and garage parking permits should be displayed and will be honoured by the authorities of the host Government.

Parking off the premises during the general debate

4. Extended arrangements have been made with the authorities of the host Government to permit members of delegations, staff and affiliates to park their vehicles along both sides of First Avenue, from 51st to 57th streets. Please note that this parking arrangement is only authorized for vehicles with valid United Nations parking permits during the period from 8 a.m. on Sunday, 19 September 1999 to the close of business on Saturday, 2 October 1999.

Vehicle security checks

5. All vehicles entering the garage are subject to search. Significant delays can be expected. Staff members are encouraged to use public transportation for the period from Monday, 20 September to Wednesday, 22 September 1999.

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 31 December 1999.

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Three-day closure of First Avenue

6. The authorities of the host Government have informed the Secretariat that it will close the section of First Avenue in front of the United Nations from approximately 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, 20 September, Tuesday, 21 September and Wednesday, 22 September 1999 to accommodate the motorcades of dignitaries. Therefore, members of delegations, staff and affiliates are strongly urged to arrive not later than 8.30 a.m. Members of delegations, staff and affiliates, upon presentation of their grounds passes, may cross First Avenue at either 42nd, 45th or 49th streets. The crossing point at 45th Street will be particularly congested and it is therefore recommended that all pedestrians use the other two crossings.

7. It may also become necessary to close the three street crossing points temporarily at various times throughout the day. During intermittent closings of First Avenue, the only entry point to the premises will be through the 48th Street entrance to the garage.

8. Staff members, affiliates and members of delegations who may encounter difficulty in gaining access should seek assistance from United Nations security personnel at the Pass and Identification Office located at 45th Street and First Avenue.

9. The Secretariat Circle will be closed to vehicular traffic except for escorted motorcades. The garage entrance at 48th Street will be open from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. After 8 p.m., the 48th Street garage entrance will close. The entrance at 43rd Street and First Avenue will be used by all vehicles from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. The garage exit at 42nd Street will be accessible from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Authorized vehicles will be allowed to proceed east along 46th Street, to First Avenue and 48th Street, into the garage.

Alternate access route

10. From Monday, 20 September, at 6 a.m., through Saturday, 2 October, an alternate access route has been established for authorized vehicles. Vehicular traffic will be able to approach Headquarters southbound on the FDR Drive, proceeding to 49th Street and First Avenue, south to 48th Street and the garage. This access route will be available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The FDR southbound to the 48th Street garage entrance will be open before 6 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

Access through the Delegates' Entrance and closure of the building

11. In order to enhance security during the period of the general debate, the gate at 45th Street and First Avenue and the Delegates' Entrance will be reserved for the use of members of delegations. Staff members and affiliates are requested to use other access points.

12. For security reasons, from 5 p.m. on Sunday, 19 September to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 22 September 1999, the Headquarters premises will be closed to the public. Staff members are requested to schedule their appointments with visitors and guests at locations away from the Headquarters site. Guided tours will resume on Sunday, 3 October 1999.

13. During the two-week period of the general debate, from 20 September to 2 October, members of accredited non-governmental organizations with annual grounds passes and members of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations for a specific period of time may only enter United Nations Headquarters through the NGO doorway at the 46th Street entrance. After 5 p.m., members of accredited non-governmental organizations will use the 42nd Street Secretariat entrance. At the conclusion of the general debate, members of non-governmental organizations with annual grounds passes will be able to enter the United Nations either through the NGO doorway at the Visitors' Entrance at 46th Street or through the NGO doorway at the Secretariat Entrance at 42nd Street.

14. During the general debate, access to the 2nd floor by members of accredited non-governmental organizations shall not be permitted. This restriction will be suspended during the special session of the General Assembly on small island developing States for members of accredited non-governmental organizations with a special pass.

15. The present circular should be read in conjunction with information circular ST/IC/1999/67, dated 27 August 1999, which provides information on arrangements for admission to the Headquarters premises, as well as parking, catering facilities and commercial operations during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly.